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**Request for Support and Expressions of Interest**

**Specialist Presentations for Stakeholder Consultations**

**Background**

The CARICOM Digital skills Taskforce was launched and began its work in September 2021, in response to a mandate from the Council on Human and Social Development (COHSOD) in November 2020. More information can be sourced at: <https://caricom.org/digital-skills-taskforce/>

The CARICOM Secretariat is seeking expressions of interest for expert speakers on sectoral topics to support the CARICOM Digital Skills Taskforce regional consultations on digital skills in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) during the period **July to August 2022**, with key segments of Member States and Associate Members to solicit their perceptions, perspectives, views, and suggestions about developing a robust digital skills programme for all citizens.

**Consultations**

The CARICOM Secretariat and the CARICOM Digital Skills Task Force are organising a series of consultations across the region.

The Consultations are envisaged to comprise three components, viz.:

* ***Learning Component***: presentation by international or regional specialists/experts
* ***Sharing Component****:* sharing by participants of the consultation on existing and proposed initiatives, and enablers and challenges in digital skills
* ***Doing Component:*** determination of main inputs to be reflected in the Digital Skills Report and recommendations for inputs into the digital skills strategy

The consultations will be chaired and/or moderated by a Task Force member and will be conducted between July and mid-August. They will be held for the following groups, with representation from each Member State , Associate Members and related Ministries and agencies

**Areas of interest/ Focus groups /Sectors**

The list of sectors /focus groups /topics is provided ***below***:

| **SECTORS / FOCUS GROUPS** |
| --- |
| 1. Educators
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| 1. Artists/Artisans/Entertainers
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| 1. Justice Sector
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| 1. Private Sector
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| 1. ICT Agencies
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| 1. Sports & Wellness
 |
| 1. Elderly Persons
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| 1. Persons with Disabilities
 |
| 1. Youth
 |
| 1. Security Sector
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| 1. NGOS, CSO, Cooperatives
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| 1. Emergency Agencies
 |
| 1. Religious Organisations
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| 1. Mayors & Local Government Agencies (LGA)
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| 1. Regional Organisations
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**Specialist support required**

The Task Force is looking for specialists in digital skills/digital competencies who have a research/academic/training/advocacy focus on any of the groups in the Table (***above***), with a view to requesting/inviting guest speakers to make a presentation (20 mins) at the relevant consultation, (followed by Q&A ) to explore the following:

* *What is the situation of digital skills acquisition and development among the sub-population across the region, in this particular sector?*
* *What are the constraints and enablers, at the micro, mezzo and macro levels?*
* *What should the goals for 2030 and 2040 be for this sub-population?*
* *What are the strategies and resources needed, and how should these be rolled out?*
* *What are the benefits to accrue from investing in this sub-population’s acquisition* of digital skills, as well as the cost of inaction?

**Submitting your expression of interest**

To register your interest in being considered for the Taskforce Consultations please submit the following documents using the subject line “Expression of interest for the CARICOM Digitals Skills Taskforce Consultations” to email address: ict4dstaff@caricom.org ict4dstaff@caricom.orgor ccdigitalskillstf@caricom.org

***Please note that, if selected, participation/presentations will be in a personal capacity. Therefore, please do not use the letterhead or other identification of your employer – unless necessary.***

1. Your curriculum vitae; and/or short biography
2. Photograph
3. Area /sector of interest (as per the table above)

**Selection of experts**

If selected by the CARICOM Secretariat and the CARICOM Digital skills taskforce, proposed experts/presenters will be sent an e-mail confirmation.

**Renumeration**

**Experts/presenters will not be remunerated for their services in relation to the Taskforce consultations or otherwise**. Presentations/participation will be on a purely voluntary basis.

***Thank you for expressing your interest in this critical initiative of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).***

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